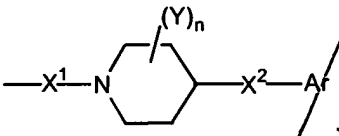
optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); or

two R^4 taken together form a bridge optionally containing a heteroatom;

R^1 is



;

wherein

X^1 is CO, or an isostere thereof;

Y is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl or two Y taken together may form an alkylene (2-3C) bridge;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X^2 is CH, CH_2 or an isostere thereof; and

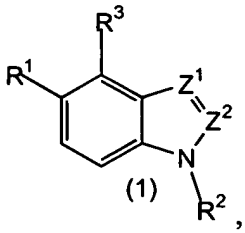
Ar consists of one or two phenyl moieties directly coupled to X^2, said one or two phenyl moieties being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (1-6C), alkynyl (1-6C), CN, CF_3, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, NR_2, OR, SR, OOCR, NROCR; and phenyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more of the foregoing substituents, wherein R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl, each of said alkyl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said aryl or alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or

heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, NO_2, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (1-6C), alkynyl (1-6C), CN, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, and NROCR where R is H or alkyl (1-6C).

40. (New) The compound of claim 39 which is of the formula



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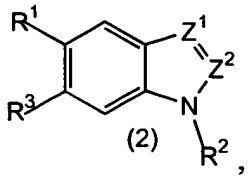

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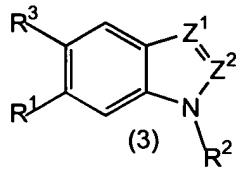
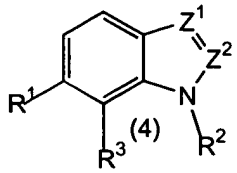


or



41. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

42. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO.

43. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^2 is CH_2.

44. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO and X^2 is CH_2.

45. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

46. (New) The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

47. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

48. (New) The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

49. (New) The compound of claim 40 which is of the formula (2).

50. (New) The compound of claim 44 which is of the formula (2).

51. (New) The compound of claim 40 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

52. (New) The compound of claim 44 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

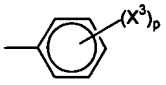
53. (New) The compound of claim 44 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent R^2 optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

54. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 1 or 2 and Y is unsubstituted alkyl.

55. (New) The compound of claim 52 wherein Z^3 is 1 or 2 and Y is unsubstituted alkyl.

56. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 0.

57. (New) The compound of claim 52 wherein n is 0.

58. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Ar is  wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR, or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

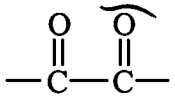
59. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^2 is CH and wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent R^2 optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

60. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 and R^4 is other than H.

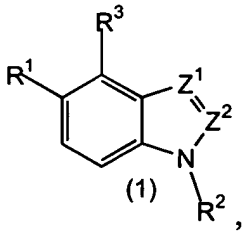
61. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 wherein R^4 is other than H and Z^2 is CH.

62. (New) The compound of claim 61 wherein R^4 is alkyl either containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, or said alkyl being substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); or both.

63. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 comprises the structure



64. (New) The compound of claim 63 which is of the formula



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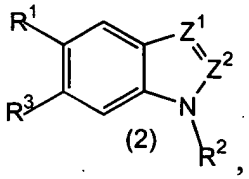
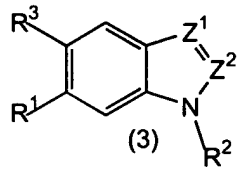
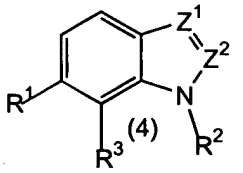


(2),



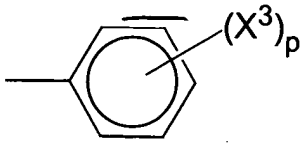
(3) or



(4)

65. (New) The compound of claim 64 which is of the formula (2).

66. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein Ar is



wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR; or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

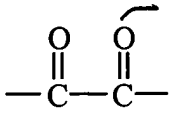
67. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

68. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 comprises NR_2.

69. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 comprises a saturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

70. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 comprises an unsaturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

71. (New) The compound of claim 66 wherein R^4 comprises the structure:



72. (New) The compound of claim 39 which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-(4fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-cyclohexylmethylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-N-methylpiperazinyl-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-benzylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-[3-{(4-methoxybenzyl)-amino}-2-hydroxypropyl-]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-{3-n-propylamino-2-hydroxypropyl}-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridoyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridylmethyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-methylacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-acetyl-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(n-propylamide)acetyl 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid-n-butylamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid 4-methoxybenzyl amide;

3-(2-methoxyethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-methylaminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-aminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-6-carboxamide;

3-(4-fluorobenzylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylcarboxamidyl]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-3-(2-dimethylaminoethylamino)carboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-4-benzylpiperidinylindole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide-3-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-dimethylamino)ethylaminocarboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

or is a compound as set forth in Table 5.

73. (New) The compound of claim 72 which is

4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-dimethylaminoethylaminocarbonyl]-4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy indole-5-carboxamide; or

4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

74. (New) The compound of claim 73 which is 4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide

75. (New) A method to treat a condition characterized by a pro-inflammation response which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 39 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said condition.

76. (New) The method of claim 75 wherein said condition characterized by inflammation is acute respiratory distress syndrome, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, uveitis, IBD, acute renal failure, head trauma, or ischemic/reperfusion injury.

77. (New) A method to treat a heart condition associated with cardiac failure, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of any of claim 76 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said heart condition.

78. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein said chronic heart condition is congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy or myocarditis.